घटाकर 1 करोड़ रूपये कर दिया गया है । साफ्टवेयर क्षेत्र के लिए इस सीमा को कम करके 10 लाख रूपए कर दिया गया है । इसके अलावा,कच्चे माल का कम मात्रा में आयात करने वाले निर्यातकों के लिए आयातित कच्चे माल की आपूर्ति को सुकर बनाने के लिए निजी बॉण्डेड भंडारगृह योजना शुरू की गई है । नीतिग समीक्षा एक सतत् प्रक्रिया है जो व्यापार एंव उद्योग संघों के साथ विचार-विमर्श पर आधारित हैं ।

Rejection of India's Export Promotion Schemes

1563. SHRI CO. POULOSE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether four of India's Export Promotion Schemes have been struck down by the European Commission on the ground that they were indirect subsidies to exporters which hit the European industry;

(b) if so, the schemes which are affected and the quantity and value of exports involved in these schemes;

(c) the points advanced by the European Commission to justify their claims; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The fallowing four Export Promotion Schemes have been determined by the European Commission, to be conferring indirect subsidies to the Exports made to the countries belonging to the European Union.

(i) Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act .

(ii) Advance Licensing Scheme

(iii) Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG)

(iv) Duty Exemption Pass Book Scheme (DEPB)

It will be difficult to assess the quantity md value of exports involved in these ichemes under various Anti-Subsidy nvestigations initated/conducted by the European Union as the quantity and value of exports of various commodities keep fluctuating because of various other factors also.

(c) The European Commission has used the following arguments to justify their claims.

(i) Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act: Exemption of export income from Income Tax amounts to giving a subsidy.

(ii) Advance Lincensing Scheme: The contention of the European Commission is that this scheme is contingent upon export performance. Further there is no system or procedure in place to confirm which inputs are consumed in the production process of the exported product and in what quantity.

(iii) Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme: Here, the European Commission is of the view that this scheme is contingent upon export performance *i.e.* the benefit can not be obtained without a commitment to export goods. As such it is deemed to be specific and therefore countervailable.

(iv) Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme: European Commission has treated the DEPB scheme as countervailable on the same grounds on which the advance licence scheme has been treated as countervailable.

(d) Government .of India has taken all the necessary steps to defend the various targetted schemes. GOI has appointed Brussel based legal firms as well as local legal firms to fight the cases on its behalf. In addition, Government has also undertaken diplomatic lobbying to convince the various EU member

countries through Indian missions in those countries that the various Export Promotion Schemes are not in the nature of subsidies.

Free Import of Oilseeds

1564. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Address made my toted ecologist, Dr. Vandana Shiva in a Press Conference that Government's decision to free import of oilseeds especially soyabeans on one hand and banning the sale of mustard oil on the other, was not coincidental;

(b) whether the only visible beneficiary of the tragedy has been the International Soyabean Lobby who are using the market opening to push its genetically engineered stock into the Indian market; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Import of soyabean in split and cracked form, sunflower and rapeseed have been permitted for import subject to plant quarantine conditions in order to enhance the availability of edible oil in the domestic market, increase capacity utilisation of processing mills and generate additional exports of oilmeals. The ban' on sale of mustard oil was on account of adulteration in the mustard oil.

(b) and (c) Consignments not meeting the plant quarantine conditions and other human, animal and plant safety norms would be appropriately dealt with by the authorities through measures including but not limited to, denial of entry at the port of disembarkment and/or rcshipment. The Government has also issued orders for compulsory packaging of Edible oils. The actual import ot oilseeds would depend not only on the domestic availability but also on the availability and prices prevailing in the international markets.

Plan for Promotion of Farm Exports

1565. DR. MOHAN BABU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have drawn up a comprehensive plan for promotion of farm exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how best the plan would help in increasing India's present poor share in world trade; and

(c) the extent to which the comprehensive plan would boost country's foreign exchange earnings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE): (a) and (b) Policy of exports of agricultural products forms an integral part of the Export Import Policy of the country. The Policy regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concern of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an on-going process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable.

Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enhance exports of farm goods include:

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know how of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers.